

## Abstract

Fast-acting composition for preparing cold and hot drinks from drinking water

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The invention relates to a fast-acting composition for preparing cold and hot drinks from drinking water, in particular coffee or tea. Starting from the disadvantages of the known prior art, it is an object of the invention to  
10 provide a fast-acting composition for preparing cold and hot drinks from drinking water which is simple to handle, has a uniformly constant action, excludes the risk of microbe formation and, after a relatively short treatment time of the drinking water, leads to a noticeable improvement in taste of  
15 the drink. For this, as a solution a composition is proposed which consists of cellulose fibers which are modified by chemical reaction with formation of phosphate ester groups and have an ion-exchange capacity of at least 50 mg of copper/g of dried fiber, this composition being contacted by immersion  
20 with the drinking water or brewing water at least briefly, for a period of a plurality of minutes. The chemical modification is performed by phosphorylating the cellulose fibers with phosphoric acid or ammonium phosphate up to a phosphorus content of from 3 to 8% by mass. To increase the mechanical  
25 stability of the fibers, the phosphorylation can additionally be combined with a carbamidation with urea up to a nitrogen content of at least 1% by mass in the form of carbamide groups. The modified cellulose fibers are so rapid in their action that after immersion in the preparation water, even  
30 after only a few minutes, if appropriate supported by a gentle stirring motion, a noticeable taste improvement of the drinking water and the drinks prepared therefrom is achieved, without disadvantageous effect on the aroma of the respective drink.